



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Eohn
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,866	03/04/2002	Ling-Zhong Liu	12496-US	4238
23553	7590	11/01/2005	EXAMINER	
MARKS & CLERK				LEE, ANDREW CHUNG CHEUNG
P.O. BOX 957				ART UNIT
STATION B				PAPER NUMBER
OTTAWA, ON K1P 5S7				2664
CANADA				DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/086,866	LIU ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Andrew C. Lee	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cain et al. (US 6810427 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method of managing switch connections at a switching node in a communications system (Abstract, lines 1-3; column 1, lines 60 – 65), the method comprising: providing connection requests from a higher level application to a connection manager in said switching node (Fig. 2, Fig. 3; column 6, lines 37 – 42); processing said requests in said connection manager and generating a connection table therefrom (column 6, lines 15 – 23); and based on said connection table, routing said commands from said connection manager to switch card elements in said switching nodes to carry out said requests (column 6, lines 23 – 36).

Regarding claim 2, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 1 wherein said commands are routed from said connection manager to said switch card elements through an abstraction layer in said connection manager (column 5, lines 5 – 13).

Regarding claim 3, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 2 wherein said connection table is generated from switch card related information stored in registers in switching card fabric software (column 5, lines 8 – 15).

Regarding claim 4, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 1 wherein said connection requests include connection related commands (column 6, lines 37 – 45; column 11, line 1 – 20).

Regarding claim 5, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 4 wherein said connection related commands include: call set-up; call teardown; modify; inquiry and connection maintenance such as loopback tests (column 6, lines 37 – 45; column 7, lines 9 – 28; column 20, lines 25 – 38).

Regarding claim 6, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 1 wherein said connection requests include configuration related requests (column 2, lines 30 – 35).

Regarding claim 7, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a The method according to claim 1 wherein said connection table includes input and output port information (column 23, lines 57 – 62).

Regarding claim 8, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a method according to claim 1 wherein said switch card elements support multiple configuration tables (column 19, lines 24 – 37).

Regarding claim 9, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a system for managing switch connections at a switching node in a communications network (Abstract, lines 1-3; column 1, lines 60 – 65), said system comprising: means for receiving connection specific requests from a higher level application (Fig. 2, Fig. 3; column 6, lines 37 – 42); a connection manager for processing said connection specific requests and generating a connection table which maps external ports to an internal switching matrix for use in routing said requests (column 6, lines 15 – 23); and switch card elements for receiving routing information and carrying out connection requests (Fig. 3, column 6, lines 23 – 36).

Regarding claim 10, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a system as defined in claim 9 wherein said connection manager has an abstraction layer to provide an interface to said switch card elements (column 5, lines 5 – 17).

Regarding claim 11, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a system as defined in claim 9 wherein said switch card elements are card specific drivers (column 5, lines 28 – 46).

Regarding claim 12, Cain et al. discloses the limitation of a system as defined in claim 9 wherein said connection tables include card related information downloaded from switch fabric card on system initialization (column 22, lines 15 – 25).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ACL

Oct 21, 2005


Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner